

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Reference: H B 289



My name is Fred Sighting. I've lived in Montana for 38 years. I've had hounds for 14 years and never harvested a lion. Due to the old quota system, I rarely got an opportunity to hunt when the season was open. I believe permits are the answer to this problem for the average working person, and I believe a waiting period needs to be applied to this system enabling a shorter draw time.

Sincerely, Fred Sighting

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Reference: HB 289

I would like to make a statement in support of HB 289 to establish a 3 year waiting period for successful mountain lion permit applicants. As the FWP wildlife biologist in the Libby area for over 35 years, I was intimately involved in the evolution of lion management in northwest Montana. I was the first to establish area quotas for lion harvest in this part of the state until that system of management was no longer acceptable because it did not allow FWP management control over the lion harvest each year. I was also the first to recommend limited entry permits for lion harvest in this area of the state. Local houndsmen worked tirelessly with FWP staff and Commissioners to establish the permit system in northwest Montana and are now ready for the next logical step to distribute lion permits equitably amongst the lion hunting public. Presently, some individual hunters have received multiple lion permits since the permit system began, while other, who are raising and training lion hunting hounds have yet to receive a permit to harvest a lion. This is fundamentally an issue of fairness to those interested in hunting lions. It will become increasingly difficult to recruit young houndsmen into the lion hunting arena if they are continually unsuccessful in receiving lion harvest permits. Without houndsmen, lion management will become increasingly difficult to accomplish in Montana. Montana is second to none with respect to our wildlife resources primarily because we have demonstrated sound management and good stewardship over those resources for all our publics to see. We have an opportunity to maintain credibility even among lion hunting critics by being proactive in the way we manage lion populations in Montana.

Thank you for the work you do for Montana's wildlife resources, and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,



Gerald W. Brown

4727 Bobtail Road,

Libby, MT 59923

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

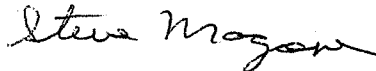
Ref. HB 289-For

Dear Sirs,

This letter is in support of HB 289. I drew a mountain lion tag and hunted lions in the Libby area this year. It was a great hunt and I was successful in getting a lion. It makes sense that an applicant who receives a special lion permit should not be eligible to apply for another special lion permit for the next succeeding three years. I believe that many of the same people who have already killed a lion apply for a permit each year. Having a three year waiting period would give other people a greater chance of drawing a permit and hunting lions. As with moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats, a lion is a great trophy and many hunters have either a rug or some type of mount made. You can only apply for moose, sheep or goats after seven (7) years if you are lucky enough to draw a permit.

Depending upon the situation, hunters with hounds would still be able to train their dogs by obtaining a Resident Hound Training Permit or by hunting in a quota area. Please support HB 289.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Magone".

Steve Magone



House Fish & Game Committee

Re: H B 289

Dear Representative:

Libby Rod & Gun Club unanimously supported asking Representative Jerry Bennett to sponsor House Bill 289.

Our club consists of 55 sportspersons who believe that a waiting period after you draw a mountain lion permit will allow a fairer distribution of the opportunity to hunt a trophy mountain lion in Montana.

Obviously the legislature years ago agreed that this was a good idea for moose, sheep and goats and created a 7-year waiting period. The demand thus far is not that severe for mountain lions. Therefore, after talking with game officials and with houndsmen we agreed on a 3-year waiting period for mountain lions. This will distribute the permits more fairly and also allow a person to draw multiple times in their hunting career.

If you pass this bill and a hunter draws a permit he or she can still hunt mountain lions in the quota areas in there region or in other regions during their 3-year waiting period.

The membership of our club ask for your support for House Bill 289.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Don Clark

Don Clark, Pres.
Libby Rod & Gun Club

To: Montana House of Representatives- F W & Parks Committee

H B 289

My name is Ray Baenen. I'm a mountain lion hunter in Libby, Mt. I have been doing this for 25 years. Several of us in this N. W. corner of the state have seen a lot of changes in our sport. Now with the implementing of permits, it seems a good idea to go to a waiting period so that more opportunity is available for those who have never taken a mountain lion or would like to again some time. It is not just houndsmen but the average sportsmen that would like to harvest one of these trophy animals. Thank you for taking these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Baenen". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Ray Baenen

Dear Representative:

I am a Montana native and a houndsman. The limited entry permit system has solved a plethora of problems that we had with the old quota system in Northwest Montana.

House Bill 289 goes one step farther by creating a system that gives everyone a fair chance to harvest a mountain lion. The 3-year waiting period will spread the permits around.

I'm one of the lucky individuals who have drawn more than one permit, but I support the waiting period.

The current system gives non houndspersons a chance to hunt this trophy animal.

Thank you for reading my comments. Please support H. B. 289.

Sincerely,

Tyler Bothman

Tyler Bothman

House Fish and Game Committee

I am writing in regards to hb289. I am in support of the 3 year waiting period after someone has drawn a lion permit. I do believe that it will help to give more of a even chance for someone to draw a permit that has never drawn one. It will also help with the ones that seem to draw every year or every 2 years. Once the waiting period starts, I also believe that there will be more people to apply, knowing that with a waiting period it will help with the odds on them drawing. Once one has drawn, they may have a three waiting period, but they can also buy a tag and hunt in the units that have a quota instead of permit system.

Thanks for your time

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. A. K. H. H. H.", is written over the typed text "Thanks for your time".

House Fish and Game Committee

I am writing in regards to hb289. I am in support of the 3 year waiting period after someone has drawn a lion permit. I do believe that it will help to give more of a even chance for someone to draw a permit that has never drawn one. It will also help with the ones that seem to draw every year or every 2 years. Once the waiting period starts, I also believe that there will be more people to apply, knowing that with a waiting period it will help with the odds on them drawing. Once one has drawn, they may have a three waiting period, but they can also buy a tag and hunt in the units that have a quota instead of permit system.

Thanks for your time

Ben Barker